

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Published by  
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS  
1201 Sixteenth Street N W Washington D C

VOL. II

JULY-AUGUST, 1934

NO. 2

## National Board Meets

**A**PPROXIMATELY 100 leaders in parent-teacher work from all sections of the United States will gather at Niagara Falls, New York, September 24-29, for the semiannual meeting of the National Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

This gathering concurrent with the opening of the school year, signalizes the end of vacation and the beginning of the season's activities of more than 20,000 local parent-teacher associations, units of the National Congress. Policies affecting the work of these units will be discussed by the Board.

Headed by the National President, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, of Chicago, the Board is made up of the presidents of the state Congresses of Parents and Teachers, committee chairmen, and officers of the National Congress.

A preliminary business session of the Executive Committee will take place on Monday, September 24. Meetings will be held at the Cataract House.

A gain of 220,000 new members during 1933, revealed in the annual report, bringing the total membership of the Congress to approximately 1,500,000, presages a successful year for parent-teacher work.

## Weekly Radio Programs Planned

Plans for a series of weekly radio broadcasts, under the auspices of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in cooperation with the University of Chicago and the National Broadcasting Company, to begin the first week in October and to run throughout the coming year, are nearing completion.

Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Parent Education Chairman, and a committee are working on the program schedule, which will be announced when completed.



Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, Lansing, Michigan, First Vicepresident and Aide to the President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

## Magazine Awards for 1934-35

**T**HE *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* (formerly called *Child Welfare*) offers fifty dollars to the state bulletin carrying the most effective *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* slogan in each issue published from September 1934, through March 1935. Parent-teacher workers in each state should contribute their bright ideas toward helping their state bulletin to win the coveted check.

From the slogans published in all the state parent-teacher bulletins, three judges—an advertising expert, a magazine editor, and a publicity worker—will select the winner.

Other awards offered by the *Magazine* are fifty dollars to the state in each class which is the first to send in its quota of subscriptions; fifty dollars to the state in each class which sends in the highest percent of increase above its quota by March 31, 1935; and Honor Scrolls for local units having *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* chairmen and graduated percentages of increase in subscriptions.

## Parent-Teacher Day

**F**RIDAY, August 10, is Parent-Teacher Day at Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, New York.

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Chicago, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will be the honor guest and featured speaker at the evening session, at 8:15 P.M., in the amphitheater. Her subject will be "The Bridge Over the Chasm."

A conference of P.T.A. members will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock (Eastern Daylight Saving Time), in the Hall of Philosophy. Mrs. Francis H. Blake, of Albion, New York, and Mrs. Walter E. Greenwood, of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, state presidents and sponsors for their respective states, and Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, of Auburn, National Chairman of Congress Publications, will participate in the conference, at which Mrs. Langworthy will preside. A parent-teacher luncheon is scheduled for 1:15 P.M., at the Hotel Gary.

Large P.T.A. delegations from eastern states are planning to be present, according to reports reaching Chautauqua's Western New York Office.

The Chautauqua program for the August 10th weekend will include a joint performance of Henry Hadley's "Bianca" and Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" by the Chautauqua Opera Association, two concerts by the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Albert Stoessel, a Chamber Music concert, addresses by Lowell Thomas, Dr. John Erskine, Dr. Edward Howard Griggs, and Bishop Clinton S. Quin, and lectures by Mrs. Georgia McAdams Clifford and Mrs. Clara Z. Moore-Ferrell.

Information concerning the social program, hotel accommodations, and similar matters may be obtained from Miss Anne B. Coushaine, Chautauqua Field Director, 180 Lovering Avenue, Buffalo, New York.



## Plans of Work Approved

PLANS of work of National Committee Chairmen for 1934-37, approved in July by Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, Mr. A. F. Harman, and Mrs. A. H. Reeve, acting on instructions of the Executive Committee, have been sent to state committee chairmen to guide them in their work during the next three years. As changes become desirable, the plans will be brought up-to-date.

These Plans, supplemented by a page of instructions in the new *Parent-Teacher Manual*, which will be off the press early in September, will ultimately be carried out by committee chairmen in local parent-teacher associations. The following committee Plans have been distributed. Child Hygiene, Founders Day, Home Education, Homemaking, Humane Education, International Relations, Juvenile Protection, Legislation, Library Service, Membership, Motion Pictures, Music, Parent Education, Radio, Recreation, Rural Service, Safety, School Education, Social Hygiene, Student Aid, Study of the Use and Effects of Alcohol and Narcotics, and Summer Round-Up of the Children. Plans for the other National Committees will be approved and sent out within the next few weeks.

## Schoolmart

The National Schoolmart and National Schoolview will be held August 15 to 24 at Commerce Hall, Port Authority Commerce Building in New York City, in connection with the convention of the National Association of Public School Business Officials. The ten-day forum and exposition of "America—Forward in Education" is sponsored by Teachers College, Columbia University, the School of Education, New York University, and the National Association of Public School Business Officials.

The National Congress will have an exhibit at this meeting.

## Not Closed for the Summer

The National Office is *not closed* during the summer months, contrary to the expressed belief of several people. Washington is famous for its summer heat, accompanied by excessive humidity which on rare occasions makes it necessary for business offices, Government departments, and other establishments to suspend their activities in the early afternoon or at noon-time. Some Washington offices shorten the working day during the summer, or work a five-day week. The National Office usually adopts a "daylight saving schedule" during July and August, opening and closing a half-hour earlier than during the rest of the year, working the same number of hours per week.

## Mrs. Bradford Honored

Two California organizations have recently honored Mrs. Hugh Bradford, former President of the N.C.P.T. The California Congress has elected her a member of its Advisory Board, and the California Teachers Association has elected her an Honorary Life Member. Roy W. Cloud, Executive Secretary of the Teachers Association, in a letter advising Mrs. Bradford of her appointment, writes:

"At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Teachers Association, you were elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association. This recognition was given you because of the splendid service you have given to the schools of the Nation as well as the schools of California . . . .

"We feel that in electing you to this position that we are really honoring ourselves, for we do esteem it a real privilege to have as one of our members the past President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. . . ."

## Federal Funds for School Buildings

In addressing the convention of the National Education Association in July, on the subject of Federal Aid to Education, Dr. George F. Zook, former United States Commissioner of Education, pointed out that the same arguments which are advanced for Federal aid for schools are valid for all other aspects of state and local government, such as health, welfare, law enforcement, etc. He opposed what is commonly known as the "objective basis of distribution" (percapita) as "likely to be a matter of log-rolling in which each state receives the same amount of money irrespective of need."

Strongly favoring the use of Federal funds for school building purposes, however, he said this "has long been the usual thing in Great Britain and France . . . . Schools as well as roads should be constructed through the use of Federal funds. . . . A very small part of the sum now authorized by Congress for any one of the three great construction purposes, roads, homes, or battleships, would replace every one-room country school house which should be replaced with modern consolidated school plants. . . . I can think of no action on the part of the Federal Government which would more certainly meet one of the greatest social needs of the times, namely, that of making the schools community centers suited to the educational and recreational needs of both children and adults." Dr. Zook stated emphatically, in explaining that he favored complete grants of Federal funds for replacing one-room schools with modern consolidated school plants, "I am convinced that no other step which could be taken by Congress with respect to education would approach in significance a national school building program."

## Parent-Teacher Day at Century of Progress

THURSDAY, September 20, is a National Parent-Teacher Day at the Illinois Host House, at the Chicago Century of Progress.

Members of the National Board of Managers will be honor guests that day of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the Illinois branch.

Visiting National Board Members will be escorted on a tour of the Fair grounds, followed by a luncheon for parent-teacher members. The visitors will be invited to participate in the regular weekly parent-teacher program at the Illinois Host House Thursday afternoon, at 2:30. Parent-teacher programs, under the auspices of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the Illinois branch, will be continued at the Illinois Host House each Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 3:30 o'clock during August, September, and October. The meetings are open to the public.

## Home Study

An amicable understanding regarding home study was reached by parents, teachers, and children who participated in the panel discussion under the auspices of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in connection with the National Education Association convention, in Washington, D. C., July 5.

After careful weighing of the pros and cons of the case by mothers, fathers, grandparents, superintendents, classroom teachers, and the psychiatrist comprising the invited panel, children in the audience joined in the general discussion. They stated their case briefly and convincingly: assignments are usually too long; home study plus long hours in school leave too little time for rest, play, and sleep. They agreed with their elders that home study, in small doses, is desirable, but unanimously condemned lengthy assignments. (A report summarizing the panel discussion on Home Study may be obtained from the National Office. Inclose 3 cents postage with the request.)

Members of the National Board of Managers who were present for some of the sessions of the N. E. A. convention were: Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Mrs. Wm. T. Bannerman, Miss Marian Telford, Mr. B. H. Darrow, Miss Ellen C. Lombard, Dr. Adelaide S. Baylor, Mrs. L. B. Castell, Mrs. Charles D. Center, Mrs. Charles F. Pye, Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, Mrs. George E. Oldham, Mrs. William F. Little, former President of New Jersey, represented Mrs. Charles H. Cooley.



## The Local Unit Package in Action

### What Is in It?

Each local Congress unit receives from the state branch a "Kit of Tools" for the use of elected officers and chairmen. The local unit package contains:

#### *Parent-Teacher Manual*

*Manual* Reprints: Finance and Budget; Founders Day; Hospitality; Membership; Parent Education; Parliamentary Procedure; Program; Publications; Publicity; Secretary; Treasurer; Vicepresident. Selection from additional 24 reprints according to programs and plans. Leaflets: Announcement of Congress publications; General Information; N.C.P.T. Resolutions; Founders Day; Motion Pictures; Motion Picture Appreciation. Selections to be made according to programs and plans.

National and state bylaws.

National and state instructions.

The following are sometimes sent separately:

Membership cards.

Summer Round-Up material.

*National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, Parent Education and Parent-Teacher program leaflets.

### What Is to Be Done with It?

As soon as the "tools" are received, the president and the publications chairman should consider the most effective plan possible for putting them to work. Let a meeting be called at which the materials are displayed, discussed, and distributed by the president, the publications chairman, or both. Suggestions:

1. A roundtable conference in which all of the executive committee take part.
2. A panel discussion on the purpose and effective use of the material.
3. A skit or playlet by members of the executive committee.

### Progress of Summer Round-Up

Follow-up work on the Summer Round-Up of the Children is in progress all over the country. As a result of the spring health examinations, many thousands of children who will enter school this fall were found to have physical defects which might impede their progress in school. During this summer, these defects are being looked after and corrected, in order that the children may enter school 100 percent perfect.

In addition to this corrective work, much health education is reported. Mothers in Twin Falls, Idaho, are studying nutrition, clothing, and kindred subjects which will enable them to take better care of their children. These informal parent education groups meet in the homes of members, and under lay leadership, discuss problems of feeding, clothing, and housing the family.

### Colored Congress Convention

The National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers held its annual convention in Baltimore July 30 to August 1. Miss Ruth Bottomly, Summer Round-Up Secretary, and Miss Henrietta Beman, Publications Division, represented the N.C.P.T. at this convention.

If assistance is needed, write to state or National Office.

### What Other Tools Are to Be Had?

Parent-teacher associations, having a common task, have common needs. It is these that the "Kit of Tools" was designed to meet. Each association, having decided upon individual plans and programs adapted to community conditions, will select the necessary help from the 24 new *Manual* Reprints and from leaflets dealing with committee activities and projects. Other reprints which may be secured from the state office upon request are, "How to Organize," "Parliamentary Procedure," and "Highschool." See the 1934 announcement of Congress publications.

### How Can Congress Publications Be Put to Work?

An alert publications chairman can

1. Distribute helps to each leader at the first meeting.
2. Establish a loan service Congress bookshelf.
3. Use an information-display table at each meeting for general information and for materials pertaining to the meeting program.
4. Arrange for parent-teacher displays and exhibits wherever they may be effectively used.
5. Give members, upon request, accurate and up-to-date information concerning.
  - a. Authoritative statements, subject matter, and references.
  - b. New publications or new statements on subjects of interest.
  - c. Desirable references on programs and projects.

*Intelligent use of Congress publications promotes an understanding, participating Congress membership.*

### Parent Education

Parent education opportunities are being offered during summer sessions at colleges, universities, and state teachers colleges in 28 states, according to a recent *Bulletin*, by Ellen C. Lombard, Associate Specialist in Parent Education, United States Office of Education. "The courses are generally open to teachers and other school officials, social workers, students who are working for degrees, leaders in parent education work and in parent-teacher associations, and in some instances to parents who may or may not register for a credit course," the *Bulletin* says. A list of institutions offering parent education opportunities is included in the *Bulletin*.

### National Life Membership

Sixteen local parent-teacher associations of Mount Vernon, New York, have presented Dr. William H. Holmes, Superintendent of Schools, with a National Life Membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. This honor was given Dr. Holmes for his constructive cooperation in all parent-teacher work.

## Motion Picture Plan

Two years ago the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, recognizing the utility of further cooperation with motion picture producers adopted its Motion Picture Plan. The Plan plainly proposed non-cooperation with the motion picture industry and its cooperating groups. Without suggesting a boycott, it recommended that local associations avoid increasing the attendance in any commercial theater. It suggested cooperation with Government departments, educational institutions, religious denominations, and welfare associations in a program aimed to secure new production, equitable distribution, and trade shown pictures independently selected for exhibition in community auditoriums under public supervision.

The National Congress withdrew its support from all programs which included previewing and publishing lists of films or film estimates; indorsing lists or special programs for children or families; "Mickey Mouse Clubs," "birthday parties," and "potato matinees."

Of the church boycott, Mrs. Robbins Gilman, National Chairman of Motion Pictures, comments: "The Legion of Decency, initiated by 'Catholic Action' and supported by other denominations, fraternal, civic, and welfare groups, provides a sound procedure and a spiritual objective for a youth crusade which cannot be defeated so long as it depends on independent action. It will only fail when, and if, it accepts the proffers of the motion picture industry for cooperation, or the promises of self-regulation and improvement which are pouring in from official sources."

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers at its recent Annual Convention in Des Moines passed the following significant resolution:

"The National Congress of Parents and Teachers approves local boards to provide and administer leisure time opportunities, publicly supported and supervised, for children and youth."

The Motion Picture Program of the National Congress includes methods to stimulate the use of visual aids to education, to increase the use of suitable recreational films in community auditoriums under the supervision of local boards of education or recreation, and Federal legislation which will provide supervision of the selection and treatment of subject material used in the production of motion pictures, and regulation of trade practices used in the distribution and exhibition of them. The Plan also proposes the necessary local, and state legislation to enable local boards to function and to provide funds for their operation.

### 1934 Annual Summary

The Annual Summary of Local Unit Information is being completed at National Headquarters from reports received from 9,369 P.T.A.'s in 43 states. This represents 54 percent of the total of 17,216 Congress Units in these 43 states. Statistics and information of interest to all members which is being summarized from these reports will be printed in the *Proceedings*.



## News From State Branches

**Connecticut** "We must get a P.T.A. in every school in our state, then every family a member of the association."—*H. Wooster Warren, Superintendent of Schools, Bridgeport, Connecticut.*

**Florida** A short course was conducted June 25-30 by the General Extension Division of the University of Florida, Gainesville, in cooperation with the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, Florida Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., Nurses Association, American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, State Medical Auxiliary, State Conference of Social Workers, etc. Mrs. Arthur C. Watkins, Education Secretary, represented the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The purpose was "to give instruction in the essentials of leadership, to become acquainted, to learn the programs of work of all other associations, to find out how best to cooperate, and to learn how to coordinate and correlate the programs so that duplication may be avoided; and to learn how to play together." The entire cost, including room and board, was \$5 for three days, \$7 for five days, for rooms in the dormitories and meals in the university cafeteria.

**Idaho** The Idaho Education Association has included on its Public Relations Committee a parent-teacher member from every county in the state, thus making possible a more unified program for improving the relations between educators and parents.

**Illinois** The Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers is cooperating with the presidents of the following state teachers colleges in offering one week of non-credit courses in parent-teacher work at summer sessions:

Eastern Illinois State Teachers College, Charleston.

Northern Illinois State Teachers College, DeKalb.

Southern Illinois State Normal University, Carbondale.

Illinois State Normal University, Normal.

Illinois State Teachers College, Macomb.

**Louisiana** Mrs. Lawrence A. Mailhes, President of the Louisiana Congress, calls our attention to the fact that the Louisiana Congress showed a gain of 34.3 in membership during 1933. We regret that Louisiana was inadvertently omitted from the list of states showing a gain of 30 percent or more, listed in the May-June issue.

**Indiana** An interesting feature of one of the district conferences held in Indiana, according to Mrs. Charles E. Roe, National Field Secretary, was a demonstration of national correspondence courses by councils. *Course A* was presented as a study group activity, including a good morning song by the group and quotations on education in response to roll call. *Course B* was presented as a symposium on organization committee work by three persons, each presenting the work of two committees and answering questions. *Course C* was presented by a man who conducted a parliamentary drill for the entire assembly. *Course D* was presented in a short talk on councils by a council president followed by questions (distributed in advance) from the floor. *Course E* was presented through an interesting review of the *Publicity Manual* by a county publicity chairman.

**Maryland** The second annual Parent-Teacher Conference under the joint auspices of the National Congress, the Maryland branch, and the University of Maryland, was held at College Park, July 23-27, under the leadership of Mrs. Arthur C. Watkins, Education Secretary. A total attendance of 849 was reported, representing 71 local associations.

**New Mexico** The Roswell Senior Highschool Parent-Teacher Association more than doubled its membership as a result of enlisting student participation in its activities during the past year. Outstanding achievements reported were aid to the school library and aid in financing the publication of the student annual, *El Coyote*.

**New York** The "How of Program Planning" project at the annual Parent-Teacher Institute at Cornell University, Ithaca, demonstrated that "we learn by doing." Seven groups interested in building parent-teacher programs for the coming year were directed by the teachers in developing various types of programs.

In each group following a presentation of national and state materials, a study of local needs was made, and then the programs were constructed. Programs were developed on the junior highschool, senior highschool, rural school (one room school), elementary grade school, parent-teacher council program, and centralized and village school.

**New Jersey** The New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers is cooperating with the New Jersey Tuberculosis League in its attack on tuberculosis among high-school students. Dr. B. S. Pollack, Medical Director of the Hudson County Tuberculosis Hospital and Sanitarium, introduced a resolution at the 27th annual meeting of the League which pointed out that although the death rate from tuberculosis was decreasing, the number of tuberculosis cases in the teen-age group was increasing, especially among young women.

The resolution declared that acceptance of concentration upon tuberculin testing among the teen-age group by all tuberculosis agencies in New Jersey "shall become the outstanding policy of the New Jersey Tuberculosis League, to the end that tuberculosis within the ranks of the youth of our state shall be effectively controlled."

Dr. Allen G. Ireland urges parent-teacher groups to assist with the plans formulated by the League for the control of tuberculosis in the teen-age child. He further urges the group to take an active part in the survey of the teeth of the children being carried on under the United States Health Service.

**Maine** The Emergency Relief Administration has allocated approximately \$5,000 to the state of Maine, to be used for school census and check up of all children entering kindergarten, sub-primary, and first grade this fall. The project will be carried out under the direction of Mrs. Haven Sawyer, President of the Maine Congress of Parents and Teachers. For towns where P.T.A.'s are functioning it will serve as preliminary work to the annual Summer Round-Up of the Children.

**Texas** One of the most important key foundation stones in the educative program of the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers is the constant instruction of both lay and leader membership in the ideals, objectives, accomplishments, and ethics of the organization.

A home study course in six lessons setting forth the educational program of the Texas Congress is being eagerly absorbed by Texas members.

Three thousand two hundred and nine students, both fathers and mothers and a great many teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity to learn more about parent-teacher work.

**Washington** Mothers in Tacoma took the teachers' places in the schools during the state convention and allowed the teachers to attend the state P.T.A. convention.